



SIGNAL online

Archives

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1. SOLS SERVICES – JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

In honour of Canada Day, the SOLS delivery routes will not operate on **Monday, July 2, 2007**. The SOLS office will also be closed.

2. NEW DELIVERY SERVICE ROUTES

Starting Monday July 30, 2007

A number of changes will be made to the SOLS delivery routes beginning Monday, July 30, 2007. Six new libraries are being added to the routes, and a few libraries will be receiving additional delivery stops. By July 10th, information about the new routes will be sent out through the SOLSCEO listserv as well as the group e-mails for each of the individual SOLS delivery routes. The new routes will also be posted in the Delivery service section of the SOLS website.

3. CONSORTIA PURCHASING THROUGH COOL

SOLS staff have negotiated consortia purchasing for library products under the COOL initiative. The Consortium of Ontario Libraries (COOL) is a buying group for electronic journals, magazines, ebooks and other products not available for free on the web. Public, university, college and school libraries purchase licenses and ebooks for deeper discounts than they could achieve alone. More information about COOL is posted on the SOLS website.

COOL was first established in 1998, when the group negotiated deals on four different electronic products. Since that time, many products and services have been offered to libraries through COOL.

During June, several **products** were made available through the COOL buying group. In each case, an e-mail, with details of the offer, was sent to the Library CEO, as well as to the COOL contact person in the library. For further details on any offers, or for trial access, please contact Brenda Lewis, Information Services Representative, at the SOLS Toronto office by telephone at 416-961-1669, ext. 5130, or 1-800-387-5765, ext. 5130 or by e-mail at blewis@sols.org.

CEDROM-SNI offered a promotion on the Virtual News Library service which was available until June 15th to all public libraries, colleges, and universities in Ontario. The COOL offer for Groves Art and Music Online databases was available until June 12, 2007. Should you wish to have more information on these two offers, contact Brenda Lewis.

Libraries received an offer for a new product called Dragonsource, which is a collection of Chinese periodicals in an online database. This product may appeal to larger municipalities with a significant Asian population. Trial access to Dragonsource is available until July 31, 2007. The deadline for a subscription is **July 18, 2007**. Product, pricing and trial information details were included in the e-mail package, but if you did not receive this, or would like further information, please contact Brenda Lewis.

Please be advised that all technical support contact information, such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and support websites, have been updated on the SOLS/COOL website. If you experience technical difficulties with any database you subscribe to through COOL, all current technical support information can be found on the site under the individual name of the product. The web address is <http://www.sols.org/resourcesharing/coolcpa/cooldata/productmenu.aspx>

4. AUDIOBOOKS UPDATE

Deadline for joining NetLibrary e-book collection is Friday, June 29, 2007

In late May, libraries received information concerning a number of audiobooks options which were now available to public libraries. Responses were received from libraries expressing interest primarily in seeing audiobooks added to the shared NetLibrary ebook collection. As a result, the NetLibrary COOL IV collection will include audiobooks, and these audiobooks will be available later this summer. If you are participating in the NetLibrary shared ebook collection through one of the earlier NetLibrary shared collections including the first, second or third collections of COOL, you would also have access to the collections of ebooks and audiobooks in the fourth collection (also known as COOL IV).

If you are not already participating in this shared collection, you can still join but you must do so by the end of this week (Friday, June 29, 2007). To register, please complete the Subscription Form and the license agreement (scroll to the bottom of the page) which is posted in the COOL section of the SOLS website at <http://www.sols.org/resourcesharing/coolcpa/cooldata/product.asp?ProductID=47>. Webinars will also be arranged for public libraries on using the NetLibrary shared collection, including the use of ebooks and audiobooks.

With respect to the OverDrive audiobook model, there has been limited interest from libraries that wish to pursue this model. As indicated previously, there are two options: libraries can either join together to create a shared collection and share the start-up costs or they can go it alone. In the latter case, there are opportunities for savings if two or more libraries wish to pursue their own standalone system. If there are more libraries that are interested in this option, please let contact Barbara Franchetto at 416-961-1669 extension 5104 or by e-mail at bfranchetto@sols.org and be sure to indicate what your timeline would be for implementation.

5. KNOWLEDGE ONTARIO

Knowledge Ontario (formerly the Ontario Digital Library) is a province-wide collaboration of libraries to create an integrated and interactive digital environment about, and for, Ontarians. **Resource Ontario**, one of six projects, provides all publicly funded libraries in Ontario with access to a core suite of digital products. The resources and materials from Thomson Gale (CPI-Q and ten other databases) and EBSCO (Canadian Reference Centre) offer full

text of thousands of newspapers, magazines and books. As an update, Resource Ontario statistics indicate that online database searches on these Thomson Gale and EBSCO databases are doubling each month. All colleges, universities, most school boards and most of the public libraries have registered.

OurOntario.ca, through project manager Loren Fantin, continues to build a portal to help Ontarians discover and locate thousands of digital collections about, and from, Ontario. **Teach Ontario** skills modules and **Video Ontario**, using video streaming to bring content to students, are in the discussion stages. For **Connect Ontario**, KO is currently in negotiations with British Columbia, Alberta, and the Biblicommons Company to launch the first Beta of a social software, user enhanced content solution.

Registration for the two sets of Resources Ontario databases

There are still approximately 25 library systems in southern Ontario (out of 191) that have not yet registered to use either the Thomson Gale or EBSCO databases. By completing the registration process, library patrons from the library will continue to have access to the resources, and statistics on the usage by patrons from your library will be tracked. If you have registered for the two sets of databases, you should be now receiving usage statistics by e-mail. If you are not receiving these statistics, please contact the organization (Thomson Gale or EBSCO) to determine if there is a reason for the lack of statistics. Libraries can register for Thomson Gale websites through the trial website at www.access.gale.com. Please visit the EBSCO site to register for **EBSCO's Canadian Reference Centre database**.

6. FUNDING FROM THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

Next deadline is July 1, 2007

The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to offer grants to libraries in small communities and First Nation communities. Under the OTF community program, applications for grants for **municipal libraries** serving small communities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the municipality. Applications for grants for **county libraries** serving small municipalities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the County Library Board. Applications for grants for **First Nation libraries** must be submitted through the First Nation's Band Council.

A copy of the application process is posted on the Foundation's website. If you are applying for a **small capital grant**, up to a maximum of \$15,000, there is a new simplified application form. Capital funding is used for repairs, renovations or improvements to land or buildings and to purchase equipment to support program activities. Capital funding also supports accessibility renovations, the purchase of office equipment and musical instruments, and the installation of fuel-efficient furnaces and community-centre roofs. There is also a link to the Trillium website from the SOLS site at www.sols.org. The next deadline is July 1, 2007 – at 5:00 pm on the deadline date. Rob Lavery, from the SOLS staff, is available to assist in preparing the application or to review an application, and you can contact Rob at 1-800-387-5765, extension 5137 or rlavery@sols.org.

7. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION - COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Rob Lavery, the SOLS Resource Development Consultant, had agreed to include an information piece into each issue of Signal. For this issue, the topic is Community Foundations. You can find the actual article in the Funding Development section of the Clearinghouse of Professional Information at <http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/fundingdev/index.htm#Foundations>. In that section, the article is entitled "Public Libraries working with Community Foundations".

8. FALL 2007 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS – Mark your calendars now!

This fall SOLS will be offering some exceptional training opportunities for library staff. For children's service and programming staff we are bringing the humorous Rob Reid from Wisconsin to southern Ontario. Rob Reid is well known for his books and workshops on programming that makes reading come alive. This full day session will be offered on Friday, October 19th at the Waterloo Inn and again on Friday, November 2nd at the Whitby Public Library.

SOLS will also be hosting a marketing summit on Tuesday, October 30th at Four Corners Branch of the Brampton Public Library, featuring Bernie Colterman, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Public Sector Marketing. He will present a full day workshop for CEOs, marketing managers and staff on the unique challenges of marketing public library services. This session will include a discussion of marketing principles and their application in the public library sector including, positioning, segmentation, priority setting, integrated marketing communications, and performance measurement and evaluation.

Other workshops being planned include Pay Equity Update, Basic Reference Skills and E-resources, Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships, as well as Sharron Smith's Trends in Reading plus the Dewey Divas and Dudes. For French libraries, Communication Jeunesse will present a two day workshop – Lire, un plaisir à partager – in late November.

Print copies of the SOLS training brochure will be delivered to libraries in July, and the information will also be posted in the training section of the SOLS website. Registration for the workshops will open on Wednesday, August 1st.

Just a reminder about payment for workshops: please wait to be invoiced by SOLS. We do this twice a year, in June for the spring workshops, and December for the fall workshops. Libraries may choose to pay by cheque, Visa, Mastercard or American Express. By invoicing the libraries, administrative work is reduced significantly for both SOLS and its client libraries.

9. LIBRARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Earlier in June, SOLS hosted a workshop to introduce participants to the second edition of the SOLS Resource Manual *The Library's Contribution to Your Community (LCTYC)*. The *LCTYC Resource Manual* has enjoyed considerable success since it was first published in 1998. The manual has been purchased by a number of provincial and state library associations, and is being used by libraries throughout North America to demonstrate their social and economic contribution to the community. The second edition incorporates lessons learned through the use of the manual and presents a new perspective on preparing a "contribution strategy".

The purpose of the June workshop was to provide the background and understanding necessary to use this valuable tool to document the important role the library plays in your community. If you were unable to attend that session, but would still be interested in attending a similar workshop, please let Nancy McPherson know of your interest. She can be reached at training@sols.org. If there is sufficient interest, a second workshop will be organized for Fall 2007.

Copies of this publication are available through SOLS. One copy per library is offered free of charge. Subsequent copies are \$25 to SOLS libraries. To order a copy, please visit the Publications section of the SOLS website.

10. EXCEL – Registration deadline – Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Registration for the Fall 2007 semester for EXCEL will begin on Monday, July 2, 2007. The online registration form is posted in EXCEL section of the SOLS website. The registration deadline, with no exceptions, will be **Tuesday, September 4, 2007**. The semester will actually begin during the week of **September 24, 2007**.

The Fall 2007 semester marks the first offering of a new EXCEL course, called **Readers' Advisory Service**, the first new course to be offered in some time. Readers' advisory is the process of matching readers with books and books to readers. It is answering questions that have more to do with the patron's leisure reading than their informational needs. Readers' advisory deals with both fiction and non-fiction titles and a specific request may require both kinds of materials to meet a need. This course covers the techniques of working in the area of readers' advisory, but also provides suggestions for the range of options available in this type of service. Those who have recently taken EXCEL #4 **Information services** will find some duplication, as some of the materials have been moved out of EXCEL #4 and into this new course, but be assured that the topic has been greatly expanded from the single section on readers' advisory work that was found in EXCEL #4. For this semester, the course will only be available in English.

Other courses to be offered in the Fall 2007 semester are as follows. Please note that EXCEL #10 **Acquisitions and Serials** will no longer be offered.

- #1 - Introduction to Public Libraries
- #2 - Basic Library Management
- #3 - Supervision
- #4 - Information Services
- #6 - Basic Collection Development
- #13 - Circulation
- #14 - Non-book materials (**revised**)
- #16 - Professional Development (**web-based**)
- #19 - Readers' Advisory Service (**new**)

The following courses will be offered in **French**:

- #1 - Introduction aux bibliothèques publiques
- #5 - Le marketing de la bibliothèque - **révisé**
- #8 - Développement des collections pour jeunes adultes
- #17 - Ressources électroniques d'information (2006) (**en ligne**)

11 – ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY GUIDELINES –

Testimonial from Essa Public Library

From time to time we receive questions about how libraries might best use the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines*. Recently, Janine Harris-Wheatley, the CEO at Essa Public Library shared these observations and comments with us. She does make reference to the fourth edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines, and, indeed, the fourth edition of these guidelines should be ready by September 2007. Once posted, information on the new edition will be shared with all libraries.

***Subject:** Ontario Public Library Guidelines Testimonial

"I understand that work is now being done on Edition 4 of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines. I wanted to express to you how valuable I believe this document is for the library community and thank everyone for their contributions to this project.

"In 2006 Gwen Wheeler visited our Library to help us assess how we compared to OPLG. She prepared a Pre-Audit Checklist that detailed the areas where we did not meet the Guidelines. Together we designed a do-able Draft Work Plan for achieving accreditation. Gwen's assistance with all this was very much appreciated.

"The Board and myself as CEO were pleased and excited by how close we were to meeting accreditation requirements and were determined to improve sufficiently to reach this goal. As a result, we now have a complete set of policies, have expanded staff training, and have determined the need for a strategic plan. We are well on our way to fulfilling minimum requirements with only 12 Guidelines unmet, only one of them mandatory. This has been a very productive process for the Board and myself. There was a determination previously to improve library services but it was the OPLG that gave us the definition of how we could best do this.

"The race to accreditation has now been temporarily interrupted but for good reasons. We have just completed a year long project to expand our Thornton Branch with a majority of the funding coming out of the blue from the community. We also have land secured for a new main branch in Angus and are in the middle of a major fund raising campaign with a projected opening date of 2009. It is quite possible that these two building projects would not have happened, or happened so quickly, without the catalyst of the other improvements that were made to the library's services. Realizing that our facilities were the main barrier to meeting standards for becoming a good library was definitely part of this impetus. Although we are not on the books as an accredited library at this time, I still believe you could count Essa Public Library as part of your success story."

12. TD SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2007

SOLS has supported the TD Summer Reading Program since 2000 when it was first expanded beyond Toronto. Each year, we organize the ordering process for libraries in southern Ontario, deliver all of the materials to SOLS' libraries, post information about booklists, clip art and other program ideas on our website, as well as organize a number of orientation sessions.

The staff at Library and Archives Canada are building the website for the 2007 TD Summer Reading program, which you can find at <http://www.td-club-td.ca/>. After selecting the language in which you wish to work, there is a page with introductory information. LAC staff have now posted an electronic copy of the staff manual, as well as the artwork which will be used on the posters, invitations and booklets. The kid's activities sections are now live, and kids will find interesting lists and interactive puzzles in that section.

13. SOLS BOARD SUMMARY – JUNE 2007

Policy Development – Ends Policy Review

SOLS' Service Plan, *Stronger Libraries Stronger Communities 2004 – 2007*, expired at the end of March 2007 and SOLS' Board has embarked on a new planning process. To initiate this planning, the Board reviewed its Ends policies and approved the statements below subject to consultation with the Minister of Culture.

SOLS EXISTS SO THAT:

The people of Ontario, as represented by the Minister with jurisdiction for public libraries, will have equitable access to library services at a sustainable cost.

1. Libraries will be equipped to deliver equitable access.
 - 1.1. There will be a network for equitable access to worldwide library collections.

- 1.2 Libraries will provide services according to minimum standards.
 - 1.2.1 Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the development and achievement of common standards.
- 1.3 Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the cost-effective acquisition and use of resources.
2. The Minister will be equipped to deliver equitable access.
 - 2.1 The Minister will have expert, credible information and advice about the sector.
 - 2.2 The Minister will have a mechanism for delivery of core information and services that need to reach all libraries.

While these policies would normally form the basis of a new service plan, the Ministry of Culture is part way through a library sector review that will also influence SOLS' role over the next few years. While we await the outcomes of the Ministry's review, we have proceeded to write an operational plan to guide services for this fiscal year. The plan is organized by the Board's new Ends policies and includes the budget for 2007/08. It is posted on our website (www.sols.org) under 'About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports'.

Participation in Ministry of Culture Booth at the AMO Conference

SOLS will be participating in the Ministry of Culture booth at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference in August. The purpose of our participation is to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision-makers and the MPPs who attend the conference. Our portion of the booth will be staffed by SOLS board and staff members and we will have SOLS' Annual Report and Brief Listing of Services available as handouts. We will also make copies available of the Ministry's Frequently Asked Questions regarding legislation that affect public libraries.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

In April, SOLS' Board launched its 2006 campaign to solicit individual donations for SOLS' Innovation Fund. The intent of this fund is to allow us to take advantage of new products and services that can be offered to our libraries. For three years, the Fund has been used to subsidize library participation in the COOL shared ebook collection which is primarily a reference collection. SOLS' subsidy targets small and First Nations libraries and we underwrite 100% of their fee. In 2006/07, 71% of small libraries (61 libraries) and 20% of First Nations libraries (5) participated. The Board has decided to continue to support this project for 2007/08 and has set a fundraising target of \$15,000. To date, just under \$3,000 has been donated.

SOLS is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for all donations. Donations may be made through Canada Helps by clicking "Support SOLS" on our website.

SOLS Board Recruitment

Elections to SOLS' Board will be held at the Trustee Council meetings next spring. Fifteen members are elected through the eight councils and while several incumbents plan to stand for re-election, there will be at least seven vacancies to fill. Details about the role and responsibilities of SOLS Board members will be provided at the fall Trustee Council meetings. Interested candidates will also be encouraged to attend the SOLS reception at the 2008 OLA Superconference to meet other SOLS Board members and become better acquainted with SOLS. They are also welcome to attend a Board meeting as an observer.

Annual Report 2006/07

The Board approved SOLS' Annual Report for 2006/07. It is now available on our website under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. It will also be published in hardcopy and distributed to client libraries, MPPs and provided as handouts at the AMO booth. A complete copy of the audited statements and SOLS' Contribution to Libraries 2006/07 are also posted under Plans and Annual Reports.

Operations Plan Update

An update on SOLS' services is available at www.sols.org

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 2007 at SOLS' office in Toronto.

14. SOLS CEO LISTSERV

SOLS maintains a list of all the e-mail addresses for SOLS CEOs. It is this list that is used to distribute Signal. Several

times through the month, you may also receive other messages from SOLS. This month, this message was distributed through the SOLSCEO list:

- On June 13th, Laurey Gillies sent a message regarding the new SOLS Operational Plan. The message was that SOLS' Service Plan, *Stronger Libraries Stronger Communities 2004 – 2007*, expired at the end of March 2007 and SOLS' Board has embarked on a new planning process. To initiate this planning, the Board reviewed and approved new Ends policies subject to consultation with the Minister of Culture. At the same time, the Ministry of Culture is part way through its own library sector review. While we await the outcomes of the Ministry's review, we have proceeded to write an operational plan for 2007/08 to guide services for this fiscal year. The plan may be found on our website.
- On June 7th, 14th and 26th, Brenda Lewis sent messages regarding offers from COOL. More information on the offers is provided above.
- On June 27th, Barbara Franchetto sent out a message regarding audiobooks. Further information is included in this issue of Signal.

If you did not receive this message, and would like further information, please contact the SOLS HelpDesk at 1-800-387-5765, extension 4, or by e-mail to helpdesk@sols.org

Disclaimer: For questions, comments and suggestions regarding this website, please Contact SOLS Helpdesk.
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